

## **Chapter 51.00: LAND ACQUISITION**

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301 CMR 51.00 is promulgated pursuant to the authority of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs under M. G.L. c. 21A.

### **REGULATORY AUTHORITY:**

301 CMR 51.00: M. G.L. c. 21A.

301 CMR 51.02: Definitions

Acquisition - obtaining real property by gift, purchase, devise, grant, eminent domain, rental, rental-purchase, or otherwise. Article 97 purposes - The purposes set forth in Article 97 of the Amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution and/or conservation or open space purposes set forth in any other enabling legislation of any EOEA Agency. Central Register - The Central Register published by the Secretary of State of the Commonwealth pursuant to M. G.L. c. 9, § 20A.

DCPO - The Division of Capital Planning and Operations of the Executive Office for Administration and Finance and any successor division thereto.

EOEA - The Executive Office of Environmental Affairs of the Commonwealth, and any successor executive office thereto.

EOEA Agency - The relevant agency, department or division of EOEA, including but not limited to the Department of Environmental Management, Metropolitan District Commission, Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Environmental Law Enforcement and its Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, and the Department of Food and Agriculture, and any successor agencies, departments or divisions thereto.

EOEA Agency Head - The board or officer of an EOEA Agency authorized to acquire real property on behalf of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Public Officials - The city manager in the case of a city under Plan E form of government, the mayor and the city council in the case of all other cities, the chairman of the board of selectmen in the case of a town, the county commissioners, the regional planning agency, and the members of the general court.

Real Property - Any interest in real property, including but not limited to fee simple, leaseholds, easements, restrictions and reversions acquired for Article 97 purposes as defined herein.

Secretary - The Secretary of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs.

## **REGULATORY AUTHORITY:**

301 CMR 51.00: M. G.L. c. 21A.

301 CMR 51.03: Applicability

301 CMR 51.00 shall apply to all acquisitions of real property for Article 97 purposes by any EOEA Agency. 301 CMR 51.00 shall not apply to any acquisition of a capital facility, as defined in M. G.L. c. 7, § 39A(f), whether or not by an EOEA Agency. Whether an acquisition of real property which includes an existing or subsequent structure is for Article 97 purposes or constitutes a capital facility shall be the sole determination of the EOEA Agency Head. Any deed or other instrument of conveyance stating that real property is being acquired for Article 97 purposes shall create a conclusive presumption that the acquisition is for Article 97 purposes and does not constitute the acquisition of a capital facility. Any EOEA Agency may acquire real property for the Commonwealth for Article 97 purposes if and to the extent authorized by statute to do so. Only an authorized EOEA Agency shall determine what real property to acquire for Article 97 purposes.

## **REGULATORY AUTHORITY:**

301 CMR 51.00: M. G.L. c. 21A.

301 CMR 51.04: General Provisions

### Methods of Acquisition

(1) Real property may be acquired by the Commonwealth for the use of an EOEA Agency by gift, purchase, devise, grant, eminent domain, rental, lease, rental-purchase or otherwise.

(2) All real property acquired for the use of an EOEA Agency shall be acquired and held in the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts acting through that acquiring agency.

(3) The granting or demising clause of any instrument granting or demising real property to the Commonwealth shall read as follows: "... to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts acting through its (Department, Commission, Board or Division of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs)....".

## **REGULATORY AUTHORITY:**

301 CMR 51.00: M. G.L. c. 21A.

301 CMR 51.05: Preparation for Real Property Acquisition Due Diligence. The following shall be obtained for each parcel of real property or interest therein to be acquired on behalf of the Commonwealth.

(1) Appraisal: In accordance with policies established by the Secretary, and except as may otherwise be determined by the Secretary, two appraisals by real estate appraisers certified or licensed pursuant to M. G.L. c. 112, dated no earlier than a year prior to the date of execution of the acquisition agreement or conveyancing documents are required with respect to each acquisition of real property. Appraisals shall not be required for gifts or devises of real property.

(2) Title: A title report, including an attorney's certification of title on a form prescribed by the Secretary after consultation with the Commissioner of DCPO, performed in accordance with policies and specifications established by the Secretary, is required with respect to each acquisition of real property. The title certification shall have attached to it true copies of all documents relative to and evidencing the encumbrances and defects to title, if any, listed by the certifying attorney.

(3) Environmental Site Assessment: A commercially reasonable environmental site assessment is required when determined by the EOEA Agency Head to be appropriate, for the acquisition of a parcel of real property or interest therein. Any such assessment shall be sufficient to permit the EOEA Agency Head to determine the environmental condition of the real property.

(4) Survey: At the discretion of the EOEA Agency Head and subject to the policies and specifications set by the Secretary a survey of the real property in conformance with 250 CMR 6.00 and in a form to be prescribed by the Secretary shall be required, together with a metes and bounds legal description of the real property.

(5) Such other information as the EOEA Agency Head shall deem necessary or appropriate.

**REGULATORY AUTHORITY:**

301 CMR 51.00: M. G.L. c. 21A.

301 CMR 51.06: Central Register Publication Requirement

(1) The EOEA Agency Head shall publish notice in a form approved by the Secretary after consultation with the Commissioner of DCPO, of the intention of the Commonwealth to purchase real property in the Central Register at least 30 days prior to the date that any binding agreement or document(s) is executed to acquire such real property, together with the names of all parties having a beneficial interest as provided in M. G.L. c. 7, § 40J, the location and size of the property and the proposed purchase price or rental terms.

(2) No publication shall be required for acquisition by eminent domain, gift or devise.

**REGULATORY AUTHORITY:**

301 CMR 51.00: M. G.L. c. 21A.

301 CMR 51.07: Determination of Terms of Acquisition

(1) Price. Each acquisition of real property or an interest therein for monetary consideration shall be at a price generally not higher than the fair value of such real property, which fair value shall be determined by the EOEA Agency Head based on a review of the appraisal(s) of such real property. Any purchase price exceeding 10% of the value established by appraisal(s) must be approved by the Secretary.

(2) Any agreement for purchase of real property by an EOEA Agency shall be in the form set forth by the Secretary after consultation with the Commissioner of DCPO, with such changes as deemed appropriate by the EOEA Agency Head in connection with a particular acquisition project.

**REGULATORY AUTHORITY:**

301 CMR 51.00: M. G.L. c. 21A.

301 CMR 51.08: Public Notice of Commonwealth's Intention to Purchase or Lease Real Property

(1) To Public Officials.

(a) The EOEA Agency Head shall provide written notice of any such planned purchase or lease, including a statement of the present use and proposed uses of the subject property and the reason for the proposed action, to the Public Officials of each city or town in which the real property

proposed to be purchased or leased is located at least 120 days prior to the purchase or lease of the real property by the Commonwealth.

(b) The 120-day notice period can be reduced or waived by agreement of the Public Officials.

(2) To Members of the Public.

(a) EOEА Agency Heads shall cause a public hearing to be held in the city or town in which such real property is located at least 60 days prior to the purchase of real property by the Commonwealth for the purposes of disclosing the conditions or reasons for the proposed purchase or lease.

(b) In the event the public hearing is conducted by the Commissioner of DCPO, notice of such public hearing shall be published in the Central Register at least 30 days prior to such hearing, and at least once each week for two consecutive weeks preceding the hearing, in newspapers with sufficient circulation to inform the people of the affected locality. The hearing shall be held in the locality in which the real property to be purchased is located.

### **REGULATORY AUTHORITY:**

301 CMR 51.00: M. G.L. c. 21A.

301 CMR 51.09: Real Property Acquisition Procedures

(1) The approval of the Commissioner of DCPO shall be required prior to the recordation of the conveyancing document(s) for any real property to be acquired for Article 97 purposes. The EOEА Agency Head shall certify compliance with these EOEА regulations on a form developed by the Secretary in consultation with the Commissioner of DCPO, and shall forward said certification form to said Commissioner, together with the following acquisition documentation:

(a) the appraisal(s);

(b) a copy of the attorney certification of title and copies of listed encumbrances and defects to tile, if any;

(c) the environmental site assessment, if any;

(d) a copy of the survey, if any;

(e) a copy of the notice published in the Central Register, if any;

(f) a copy of the notice to public officials, if any, of the planned acquisition;

(g) a copy of notice of public hearing, if any, of the planned acquisition; and

(h) A copy of the disclosure statement required under 301 CMR 51.00, if any.

(2) The Commissioner of DCPO shall have ten business days to certify the receipt of acquisition documentation as describe herein. Concurrent with said certification of receipt, the Commissioner of DCPO shall approve the recordation of the conveyancing document(s). If the Commissioner of DCPO does not certify receipt, and approve the recordation within said ten-day period, the acquisition shall be deemed approved and the EOEА Agency Head may record the conveyancing document(s). The ten-day period shall not begin until the Commissioner of DCPO has received all the required acquisition documentation. No EOEА Agency Head may submit for approval more

than five proposed acquisitions in a calendar week nor more than 15 proposed acquisitions in a calendar month, without specific agreement with the Commissioner of DCPO.

**REGULATORY AUTHORITY:**

301 CMR 51.00: M. G.L. c. 21A.

301 CMR 51.10: Record Keeping Requirements

Upon the completion of an acquisition, the EOE Agency Head shall cause to be kept in the permanent records of the agency those forms and documents necessary to evidence conformance with 301 CMR 51.00.

(1) Disclosure Requirement.

(a) No agreement by the Commonwealth to purchase or lease real property, and no extension or renewal of any such agreement shall be valid, and no payment shall be made by the Commonwealth to any person in connection with such purchase or lease by the Commonwealth, unless and until the party disposing of such real property shall have filed a disclosure statement with the EOE Agency Head setting forth the following information:

1. the true names and addresses of all persons and entities, including, without limitation, corporations, trusts, and limited and general partnerships, who have a direct or indirect beneficial interest, in the real property to be acquired by the Commonwealth and the extent of such interest; and

2. which, if any, of the persons listed on such disclosure statement have been elected to public office in the Commonwealth or are employees of the Commonwealth.

(b) Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the stockholder of a corporation, the stock of which is listed for sale to the general public with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, holds less than 10% of the outstanding stock entitled to vote at the annual meeting of such corporation, such interest need not be disclosed.

(c) In the event of any change of the ownership interests in real property leased to the Commonwealth during the term of the lease, such change shall be disclosed to the EOE Agency Head in a disclosure statement filed as set forth in 301 CMR 51.10(1)(a) within 30 days of such change.

(d) All such disclosure statements shall be signed under penalties of perjury by:

1. an individual lessor or seller;

2. a duly authorized officer of a corporate lessor or seller;

3. the number of general partners of a general or limited partnership and the number of trustees of a trust as executed the agreement agreeing to lease or sell such real property to the Commonwealth; or

4. such other authorized persons as the EOE Agency Head may require.

(e) Such statement after consultation with the Commissioner of DCPO shall be filed on a form prescribed by the Secretary.